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Opera on the Mall is one of my favorite nights of the year. It's as casual as a night at the opera can be, as we stretch out on Philadelphia's front lawn with our families and our picnic baskets to enjoy some classic opera in the shadow of the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall.

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On October 16, we present a free, open-air broadcast of Verdi's cherished love story *La traviata*. It is widely regarded as one of opera's greatest scores, and tonight's lavish production presents the story with a glamorous, *Mad Men*-inspired fashion sense.

We've been joined by more than 15,000 new friends in the four years since we've been hosting this event at Independence National Historical Park. I invite you to join the family and take part in our big-screen operatic block party. I also invite you to fall in love with opera and come out to join us in our city's great opera houses for one of the many thrilling productions in our 2015-2016 Season.

I hope to see you **#onthemall**!

David B. Devan

General Director & President

Opera Philadelphia

YOUR GUIDE TO OPERA ON THE MALL

VERDI'S *LA TRAVIATA*

PERFORMED IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

SCHEDULE FOR FRIDAY, OCT. 16

5:30 p.m.: Gates open
6:00 p.m.: Pre-show video with cast & creative team interviews
7:00 p.m.: Performance begins
8:15 p.m.: Intermission (20 minutes)
9:30 p.m.: Performance ends

PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES

- Share your Instagram photos **#onthemall** **#FindYourPark** with **@operaphila** and **@independencenps**
- Pose for photos in the **FREE** photobooth
- Liberty Bell Center open until 5 p.m. *Last admittance 4:50 p.m.*

ENJOYING THE BROADCAST

- Bring your blankets and beach chairs *Low-slung preferred*
- Picnic dinners encouraged
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- Food trucks on 5th Street, between Market and Chestnut
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MORE REVEALS ARE IN STORE ON 'THE AFFAIR'

JOSHUA JACKSON ON THE SHIFTING PERSPECTIVES OF THE DRAMA. PAGE 20

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I will survive

Life on Mars. Matt Damon says he would last about two minutes after being stranded on the Angry Red Planet, unlike his character in "The Martian." What about you? PAGE 18

Matt Damon plays an astronaut who winds up stranded on Mars after a mission goes awry in Ridley Scott's "The Martian." / COURTESY OF TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

'One Book' for 2016 to be 'Cold Mountain'

PAGE 02

Gunman kills 13 at college in Oregon

PAGE 10

Eagles prepare for Redskins run game

PAGE 34

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The Free Library of Philadelphia. Inset: the cover of "Cold Mountain." / CREATIVE COMMONS

'Cold Mountain' selected as Free Library's 2016 'One Book' featured read

Literacy. The National Book Award winner will also premiere as an opera in the city during the "One Book" season next February

The Free Library of Philadelphia's "One Book, One Philadelphia" program, geared at promoting literacy and library use, has selected Charles Frazier's award-winning Civil War novel "Cold Mountain" as its featured read in 2016.

Written in 1997, "Cold Mountain" is the popular American epic about a Civil War soldier traveling within a divided nation to return to the woman he loves, while she struggles to keep up her father's farm and come to terms with the new world evolving around her.

"Twelve Years a Slave," by Solomon Northup, and "The Civil War," by Geoffrey Ward with Ric Burns and Ken Burns, were also selected as two adult companion books to historically contextualize the effects of the events leading up to and after one of America's most revolutionary eras.

"This is our 14th season, and we wanted to select books that would give a very holistic viewpoint of a crucial moment in American history," said Kalela Williams, program director of One Book said. "To have these books written by a freed slave, respected historians and a great author allows the readers to see the Civil War in a unique way."

Quoted

"It's fascinating to be able to get the city to view literacy as more than just books, but a way to invoke local culture and arts."

Horrocks

In addition to the books being chosen for next year's season, which runs from Feb. 2, 2015 to March 30, 2016, it will also be coinciding with the East Coast premiere of the opera "Cold Mountain," composed by Jennifer Higdon and Gene Scheer.

The selection of the novel played a role in giving The Free Library an opportunity to tie its season in with another major cultural event.

"It's fascinating to be able to get the city to view literacy as more than just books, but a way to invoke local culture and arts … the opera coming to the city was a great way to complement our programming," Sandra Horrocks, vice president of external affairs said. "It's never a dismal moment when great happenings in the city can help ignite people to read."

From now until February, Philadelphians are encouraged to read the selected books in order to take full advantage of the workshops, panels and spotlight events such as the kickoff celebration in February featuring author Charles Frazier.

If you go

Kickoff celebration

Feb. 2, 2016
7:30 p.m.
Parkway Central's Montgomery Auditorium

ERNEST OWENS
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Two shot. Trio sought in Cobb's Creek shooting

Police are asking for help in finding three suspects wanted for a shooting in the Cobb's Creek section of Philadelphia.

Police responded to a report of a man with a gun on the 100 block of South Fifth Street at 11:30 p.m. on Sept. 16.

Both victims were walking on the 5400 block of Walnut Street when three males approached them. As soon as the victims walked past them, the three males pulled handguns and began firing.

As police arrived to the scene, they found a 20-year-old male on the ground suffering from a gunshot wound to the rear of his right leg. The victim was taken to Presbyterian Hospital.

A second victim, 20, was located near 52nd and Walnut streets with a gunshot wound to his right pinky finger.

The three suspects have been identified as black males, late teens to early 20s, 5-feet-8 with thin builds.

If you see these suspects, contact 911 immediately, or dial 215-686-TIPS (8477) or text to PPD TIP (773847).

Visit Metro.us to view surveillance footage of the suspects. LENYON WHITAKER

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Murder

Supreme Court to hear state death penalty appeal

The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday said it would hear an appeal by a Pennsylvania death row inmate who contends that a state judge who upheld his murder conviction should have stepped aside because of his prior role as a prosecutor in the case.

Terrance Williams, convicted of the 1984 bludgeoning murder of a man in Philadelphia, says former Pennsylvania Chief Justice Ronald Castille should have recused himself from hearing Williams' appeal as a member of the state Supreme Court because he had served as the local district attorney at the time of the conviction.

Castille, who recently retired from the bench, won election to the state's high court in 1993. Williams' lawyers said in court papers that Castille ran a tough-on-crime campaign in which he "emphasized his pursuit of capital punishment."

The case focuses on a December 2014 Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling that upheld Williams' conviction and sentence. Castille had denied a recusal motion filed by Williams and was in the majority in the unanimous decision.

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Jennifer Pownall / RANDI FAIR, METRO

Northeast Philly tumor patient finds FB support

Brain tumor. Kensington native is bringing awareness to the condition.

It was an ordinary day at work in 2012 when Northeast Philly resident Jennifer Pownall began to feel intense cramping in her feet.

Soon, the pain spread to her hands and fingers along with burning sensations in her extremities and face, debilitating migraines, and a feeling of electric pulses or shocks through her face and arms.

After seeing numerous doctors she was finally diagnosed with having three meningiomal brain tumors. According to the National Brain Tumor Society, 688,096 Americans are living with a brain tumor.

From that number, 550,042 are benign, which Pownall's is. "A lot of people think that because the tumor is non-cancerous, that it isn't a big deal. But it is. These tumors still wreak havoc on our lives," Pownall said.

After spending the month of July out of commission from pain, she decided to create a challenge that would bring awareness to the condition. For the Kensington native, rock 'n' roll has been a way for her to deal with her diagnosis.

So she made a challenge that features playing air guitar. Her son, Ryan, made a YouTube video of his mother explaining the challenge and playing air guitar to "Crazy Train" by Ozzy Osbourne. She then sent it around to friends and family and made a Facebook page called "Rock Out Brain Tumors Air Guitar Challenge."

She was also a guest on Fox Network's "Good Day." In only a month, Pownall has received dozens of messages from strangers and hundreds of "likes" to her page. What she wants is to bring more awareness to this condition. She said there aren't many resources out there for what she has. "Finding support through this page has been a saving grace for me. But what I want most is for people to do the challenge, share the page and to donate, Pownall said.

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PHILLY MAG & PENN FRATS DON'T GET DIVERSITY

This week in "Philly race relations gone wrong," two major institutions that pride themselves on representing the best of what the city has to offer — Philadelphia Magazine and the University of Pennsylvania — dropped the ball, yet again.

On local newsstands, there's an embarrassing October front cover story on education that completely omits black student representation. Interesting fact: 52% of Philly's school district is black and 19% Hispanic. So why does the cover appear to have only white kids and a subtle hint of Asian and Latino representation?

Even worse, the subtitle of the cover headline reads, "How to get your kid a great education … without moving to the 'burbs."

Clearly without black kids being taken into account, one would infer that Philly Mag is suggesting a good education is one where there are no black kids. Tom McGrath, editor of Philly Mag, took to Facebook to apologize for how the staff "blew it" and "should have done better."

But after the controversy of its arguably offensive 2013 cover story "Being White in Philly," perhaps Philly Mag is too accustomed to messing up and repeating said offenses. A similar case can be made for predominately white fraternities and sororities at Penn.

After a string of racially insensitive parties and acts — last year, Penn's Chi Omega sorority and Beta Theta Pi fraternity chapters threw a West Philly "gangsta" themed party and Phi Delta Theta fraternity had a black "Beyonce" blow-up doll in their annual holiday card — it continues.

Marginalized

"Philly Mag: If you want to not constantly offend marginalized communities, then hire more editors of color, who are more likely to catch such errors before they happen."

This time, it's the Phi fraternity that initially planned to throw a "Trap House" themed party where only Penn students were invited publicly on Facebook and "no narcs allowed" for this Friday's festivities. After internal and public backlash, the fraternity has now replaced the original event cover photo of a stereotypical black drug dealer counting stacks of money and later renamed the event "Phi Presents: Trap Music Party."

After talking with current peers at my alma mater, some black students have been divided on the issue. Penn has a storied history of white Greek life excluding and debasing people of color. One black student on Facebook told me that he felt the music was going to be a way that white frats could appear to be increasing diversity within the party scene with such music.

This comes after numerous complaints from black students that such parties seem to purposely exclude them. But just like Philly Mag's lackluster apology and Penn's white frats' pathetic attempt to diversify, this is really low-hanging fruit that doesn't solve anything.

Philly Mag: If you want to not constantly offend marginalized communities, then hire more editors of color, who are more likely to catch such errors before they happen. You cannot speak for us or understand us if we aren't present.

The same goes for Penn fraternities and sororities — this isn't a Wharton consumer psych course. Stop putting the responsibility on black students to suggest what's racially offensively. Instead, take the initiative by doing your part to just stop it.

Otherwise, these issues will continue to persist and once again our city's ability to evolve will continue to be undermined.

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1968 case. Texas man faces life term for Pennsylvania murder

A Texas man faces a life term at his sentencing in Pennsylvania for the 1968 murder of a Bethlehem Steel Corp. worker in what prosecutors say is one of the nation's oldest cases to result in conviction.

Richard Keiper, 69, of Boyd, Texas, will be sentenced in Monroe County Court of Common Pleas in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. He was convicted of first-degree murder in July.

Authorities say Keiper never denied shooting Alfred Barnes, 40, of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, an assistant to a vice president of Bethlehem Steel, on Oct. 18, 1968, and was an early suspect in the case.

At his trial this summer, Keiper said he shot Barnes in self-defense near Effort, Pennsylvania, but the jury did not believe him.

Monroe County Assistant District Attorney Michael Mancuso argued that the motive for the crime was stealing the victim's new Ford Thunderbird, but also suggested it could have been a gay pickup gone wrong.

The witness, Quaquo Kelly, reported the encounter to state police, but by that time Keiper had joined a traveling carnival and vanished.

Keiper was arrested decades later after Pennsylvania investigators, urged by Barnes' family not to give up on the case, re-interviewed Kelly in 2013 and found the key witness stuck to his story. REUTERS

Pistol

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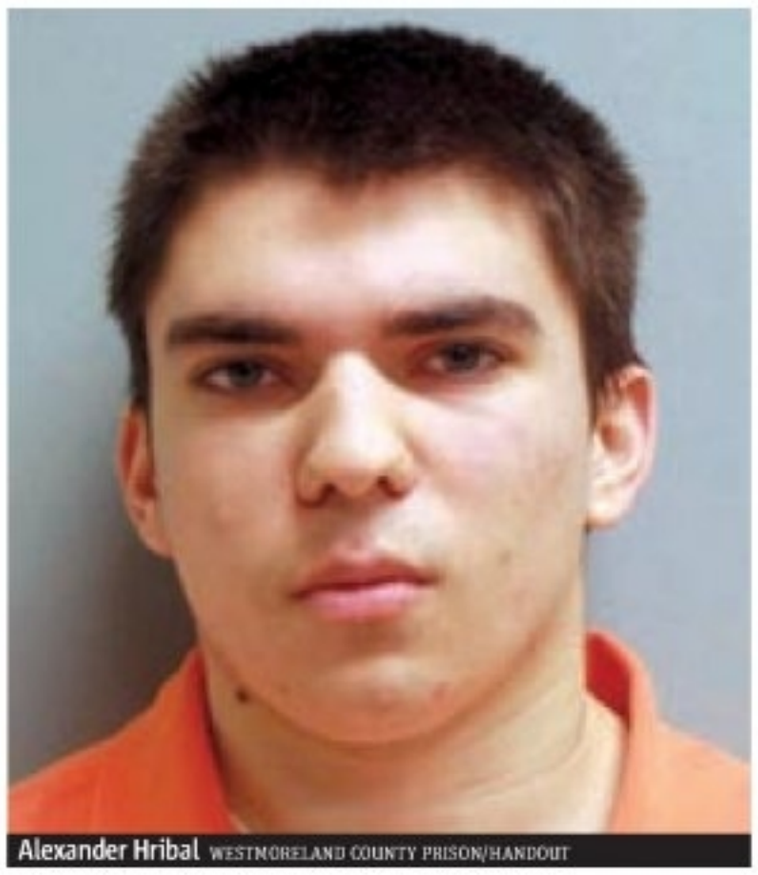
Pennsylvania State Police said they had no DNA evidence and no weapon, but did have a witness who said that in 1971 Keiper had offered to sell for $10 a pistol that he claimed he used to shoot a Bethlehem Steel employee.

Teenager charged in Pa. stabbing spree moved to adult lockup



Alexander Hribal WESTMORELAND COUNTY PRISON/HANDOUT

Court administrator. A defense request to switch the case to juvenile court has not yet been decided.

A teenager charged with attempting to murder 21 people in a stabbing spree at his Pennsylvania high school was transferred to an adult lockup on Thursday, his 18th birthday, while his lawyers sought to have him tried as a juvenile.

Alexander Hribal, who is charged as an adult with 21 counts of attempted murder, was 16 when he was arrested in the April 2014 rampage at Franklin Regional High School in Murrysville, Pennsylvania, outside Pittsburgh.

He was moved to the Westmoreland County Prison from a nearby juvenile detention facility, where he had been held since his arrest for slashing 20 classmates and a security guard with two 8-inch kitchen knives, county prison records show.

Hribal's lawyers were not immediately available for comment.

During a hearing in June, victims urged a judge to keep the case in adult court, with its potential for more severe punishment than juvenile court, and described in graphic detail the horror they experienced that spring morning at school. REUTERS

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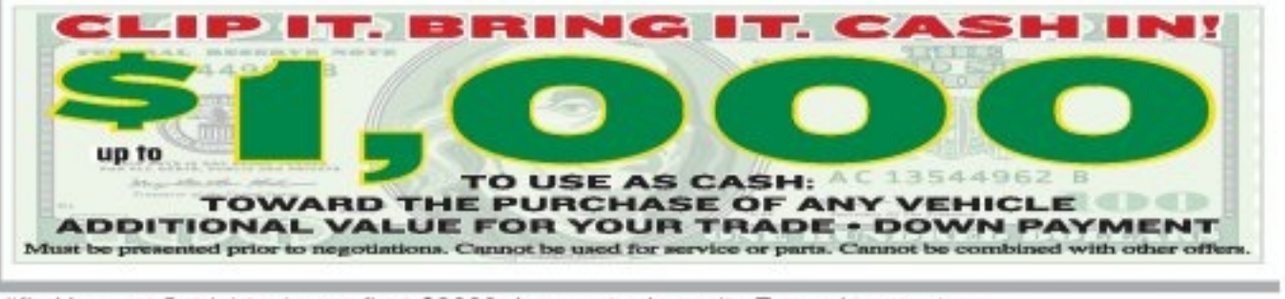
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Gunman opens fire at Oregon college campus in mass killing

Gun violence. The massacre is the latest in a series of mass shootings at schools.

A gunman opened fire on Thursday at a community college in Oregon, killing 13 people and wounding some 20 others before he was shot to death by police, in the latest mass killing to rock a U.S. school, state and county officials said.

There were conflicting reports on the number of dead and wounded in the shooting rampage at Umpqua Community College, which began shortly after 10:30 a.m. local time.

The state's attorney general told the local NBC affiliate that 13 people had been slain, 20 wounded and the shooter killed. The office of Ellen Rosenblum did not immediately return calls seeking comment.

Governor Kate Brown said the suspect was a 20-year-old man but he was not identified further by authorities. CNN reported that four guns belonging to the shooter were recovered from the scene.

The killings have fueled demands for more gun control in the U.S. — where some say ownership of firearms is protected by the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution — and better care for the mentally ill.

Kortney Moore, 18, told local newspaper News Review that she was in her writing class in Snyder Hall when a gunshot came through the window and struck her teacher in the head.

Moore said the gunman told people to get on the ground, then asked them to stand up and state their religion before he started shooting.

Douglas County Sheriff John Hanlin said the gunman was slain in an exchange of gunfire with police officers.

"It's been a terrible day," Hanlin said. The sheriff did not say how many people had been slain or wounded at the college in Roseburg, a city of about 20,000 people some 260 miles south of Portland.

CNN reported that among the wounded was a female who had been shot in the chest. The Oregonian said that at least six patients were critically injured in the shooting, citing an official with Life Flight.

Student Brandy Winter, in a posting on Facebook, said she was in a classroom in Snyder Hall, next door to the room where the shooting began, and ran, along with her classmates, when they heard the gunfire.

"I ran to the edge of the campus, down a hill, and waited. From talking with a student in the classroom where it happen, almost every person in the room was shot by a man with four guns," Winter said.

Authorities were combing through the campus, which serves more than 13,000 students, 3,000 of them full-time. Fall term began at the college on Monday. REUTERS

Umpqua Community College / GOOGLE MAPS

Shots

35-40

Student Cassandra Welding told CNN that she heard 35 to 40 shots.

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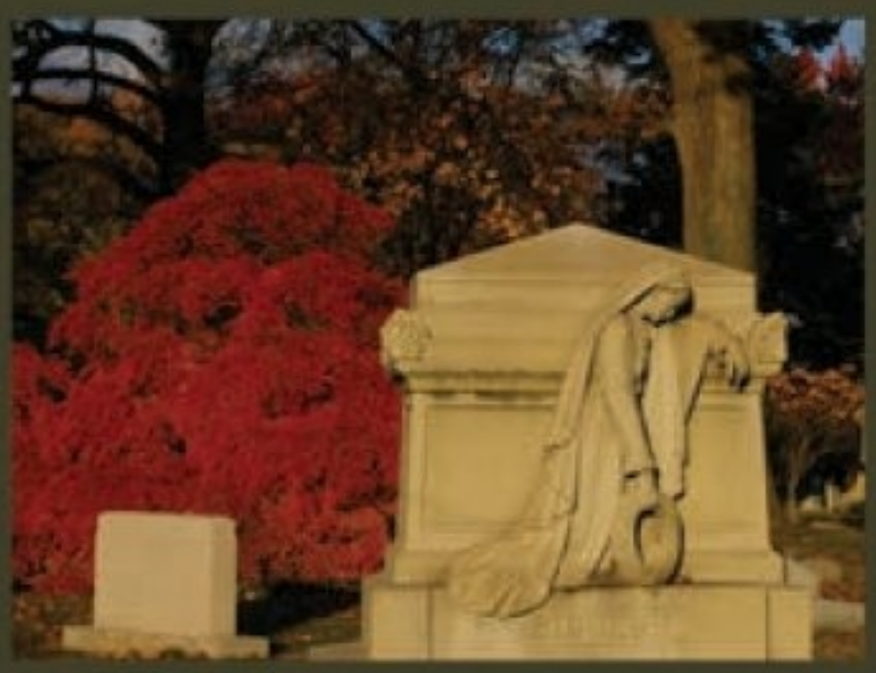

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Senate to vote next week

House passes sweeping defense policy bill; measure's future is cloudy

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the $612 billion annual defense authorization bill on Thursday, but the measure's future was clouded by a dispute between Republicans and Democrats over government spending policy.

The House voted 270-156 to pass the National Defense Authorization Act, which sets spending policy for the Department of Defense but does not appropriate the funds. The vote was largely along party lines, with most Republicans favoring the bill and most Democrats opposing it.

The Senate is due to vote on the measure next week.

The White House said on Wednesday that President Barack Obama would veto the bill if it is passed in Congress because of the "irresponsible" way it boosts military spending.

Obama and his fellow Democrats want Republicans to work out a longer-term budget deal to ease the automatic spending constraints not just on military spending but also on many domestic programs.

Republicans say Democrats want to preserve irresponsible spending on pet programs and are holding national security hostage by resisting the use of the discretionary funds.

Many Democrats also object to measures included in the NDAA that make it more difficult to close the military prison for foreign terrorism suspects at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. REUTERS

GUANTANAMO BAY IN CUBA / GETTY IMAGES

Discretionary funds

$90B

The NDAA uses $90 billion in discretionary funds meant for war spending to allow the Pentagon to sidestep mandatory "sequestration" budget cuts.

Clinton says to boost city, state funds for addiction treatment

Drugs. Clinton said she seized on addiction as a key issue after hearing questions about it on campaign stops.

Addictions affect 23 million Americans, or about one in every 14 people, according to federal data. / GETTY IMAGES

Democratic White House front-runner Hillary Clinton laid out her $10 billion plan on Thursday to tackle drug and alcohol addiction in the United States by boosting spending on treatment for addicts.

The plan, unveiled early last month, focuses on treating addiction, including $7.5 billion to support state and city treatment programs, emphasizing treatment over prosecution for low-level drug offenses and equipping all first responders with the drug naloxone, which can reverse opioid overdoses.

"Those states, those cities that are stepping up are going to get the funds" under the plan, Clinton said in Boston on Thursday. "I hope that will serve as an example, because we've still got some denial going here."

The change in focus toward steering low-level addicts to treatment rather than prison is a welcome one, said Dr. Jeffrey Samet, a specialist in clinical addiction research at Boston University's School of Medicine.

"Nothing gets achieved by putting them into jail," Samet said. "Many of them, not all but many, want to stop using as much as we want them to stop. Putting them in jail, most of them won't use while they are in, but once they're out they start using again."

Abuse of opioid drugs is a problem in the northeastern United States, following a pattern where a patient is prescribed a painkiller, turns to illicit sources of that drug and progresses on to heroin, which is cheaper and more widely available, experts said. REUTERS

Quoted

"There's treatment for one in 10, so when you do wake up that morning and you do decide that you want to go and get some help, you're lucky if you can find a place."
Clinton

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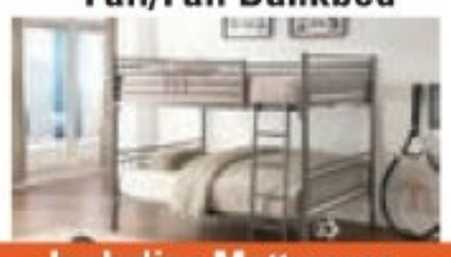

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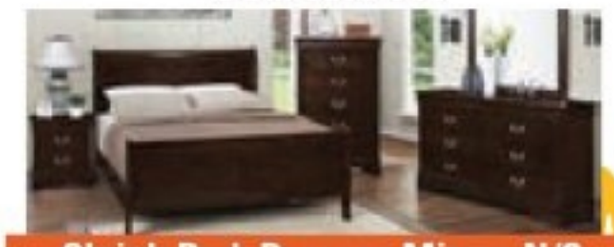

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Five things you need to know

1 No death penalty decision as trial delayed in church massacre

The federal trial for the man charged in the deaths of nine people at a South Carolina church was delayed on Thursday, as U.S. prosecutors told a judge they have not decided whether to seek the death penalty against the accused gunman.

In addition to state murder charges, Dylann Roof, who is white, faces 33 federal hate crime and firearms charges stemming from the killing of black churchgoers at Charleston's historic Emanuel AME Church in June.

ROOF /GETTY IMAGES

State prosecutors have said they will seek the death penalty. The decision to seek capital punishment in the federal case will lie with U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch, a federal prosecutor said in court in Charleston on Thursday.

U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel said he would delay the federal trial proceedings until at least January to give defense attorneys more time to wade through more than 15,000 pages of evidence. Jury selection had been scheduled to start in November.

Gergel asked federal prosecutors to alert him of the government's decision on the death penalty as soon as possible. REUTERS

2 Benghazi panel may have violated ethics rules: Pelosi

A probe of the Benghazi attacks may have violated congressional ethics rules, House of Representatives Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said after a top Republican indicated it aimed to hurt Hillary Clinton's presidential candidacy.

Democrats called for the Benghazi panel to be disbanded following the remarks by House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, who is campaigning to be the next Speaker of the House.

Pelosi told reporters that political efforts by the Benghazi committee, set up last year, could violate ethics laws that ban using taxpayers' dollars for political purposes. REUTERS

3 Oregon becomes third state to allow recreational marijuana sales

Marijuana sales for recreational use began in Oregon on Thursday as it joined Washington state and Colorado in allowing the sale of a drug that remains illegal under U.S. federal law.

Oregon residents 21 years and older can buy up to a quarter-ounce (seven grams) of dried pot at roughly 200 existing medical-use marijuana dispensaries as a new law took effect.

Backers hope the law will help curb a flourishing black market, but opponents say it heightens drug use and access by children. REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES

4 VW says emission scandal investigations to take months

Volkswagen said on Thursday it would take longer than expected to investigate its rigging of vehicle emissions tests, raising the prospect of months of uncertainty for customers, shareholders and staff.

After a seven-hour meeting late on Wednesday, the German carmaker's supervisory board said it would take "at least several months" to complete investigations, including an external inquiry by U.S. law firm Jones Day.

As a result, it proposed canceling a Nov. 9 shareholder meeting it called less than a week ago to discuss the crisis. REUTERS

5 Peanut plant managers get prison time in salmonella outbreak

Two former peanut plant managers who testified against their boss in one of the largest food poisoning cases in the United States received prison sentences in Georgia for their own roles in the deadly salmonella outbreak.

Samuel Lightsey and Daniel Kilgore were sentenced to three years and six years in prison, respectively, in an outbreak that killed nine people and sickened more than 700 who consumed salmonella-tainted peanut butter that originated from the Peanut Corporation of America plant in Blakely, Georgia. REUTERS

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Death row. Oklahoma seeks halt of three executions after drug mix-up

The Oklahoma attorney general on Thursday sought an indefinite stay on three upcoming executions including that of Richard Glossip, whose planned execution a day earlier was stopped at the last minute due a mix-up with lethal injection drugs.

Scott Pruitt filed the request with the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals so that the state could examine what went wrong with its execution protocols. Legal experts said the court is expected to grant the request.

In his filing, Pruitt said the office needed to evaluate what happened on Wednesday, when the state received potassium acetate for use in its three-drug protocol instead of the court-approved potassium chloride.

Oklahoma revised its death chamber protocols after a flawed execution last year when medical staff failed to properly place on IV line on convicted murderer and rapist Clayton Lockett, who was seen twisting in pain on the death chamber gurney.

He died about 45 minutes after the procedure began due to an accumulation of lethal injection chemicals that had built up in his tissue.

Glossip was convicted of arranging the 1997 murder of Barry Van Treese, the owner of an Oklahoma City motel that Glossip was managing.

His lawyers said no physical evidence tied Glossip to the crime and he was convicted largely on the testimony of Justin Sneed, then 19, who said Glossip hired him to carry out the killing. Sneed received a life sentence.

REUTERS

Richard Glossip / OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Potassium chloride GETTY IMAGES

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Matt Damon blinds you with science

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In Ridley Scott's "The Martian," Matt Damon is forced to, as he puts it, "science the s—" out of his predicament when he finds himself stranded on Mars after a mission goes awry. If being isolated 140 million miles away from home isn't bad enough, his character, Mark Watney, is injured with only a limited supply of food and water. But the more-than-resourceful astronaut transforms the research station into a field to cultivate the humble potato, as well as hatch other crafty means of survival. While Watney becomes a folk hero back on Earth, Damon himself might well be responsible for turning an entire generation into would-be science superstars.

Being lost in space, again: "The first thing I said to Ridley is, 'I've done this cameo in ["Interstellar," where] I play a guy who is stranded on a planet by himself. Then I'm going to take a year and a half off, and then I'm going to do a movie playing a guy who is stranded on a planet by himself. This might be a really bad idea.' Ridley laughed it off. He said, 'The movies' feel and characters are so different. Plus people's attention spans are so short that by the time this comes out one year later, they'll have forgotten all about you being in "Interstellar."'"

From cult book to Hollywood screenplay

"Drew Goddard, who wrote the screenplay, fell in love with this book. I've read interviews with [author] Andy Weir where he said, 'I just came up with this premise and let the science dictate what happened.' [Mark Watney, his character,] just does everything [like] how a person would behave if he were a scientist stranded on Mars, and these would be the actions he would have to take. And so he let the science drive the book. Drew said when I first talked to him that he wanted it to be a love letter to science."

On his character's intense loneliness and isolation: "I would be dead probably within 20 minutes. I mean, I'm an actor, so, 'Wait, nobody's going to bring me a coffee?' It would be suicide. I think the loneliness part is a part that I try to protect in my life. I was talking to a friend of mine a few years ago about technology. There are all these wonderful things that come along with it, but the ability to be deeply reflective is getting lost. It's almost something you have to practice: putting your phone away and going for a walk. That's the way we all used to because usually that's where the better ideas come from — from being reflective. So a little bit of loneliness is great, but I wouldn't last very long, no."

Does he "science the s—" out of real life?: "No. [Laughs] I don't do science in my spare time. If my kids have something to do, I'll do experiments with them or if they have stuff for school, but otherwise no. I try to read about everything that's changing and what's kind of happening in technology. I'm interested in where we're going and the Ray Kurzweil type of thinking. I love hearing those guys lecture or watching them on YouTube, and trying to guess what kind of world my kids are going to live in. Because it's changing so rapidly and it's going to happen exponentially. The life they're going to live isn't going to bear that much resemblance to the one that we did, so that's very interesting."

Matt Damon, top, gets stuck on Mars in Ridley Scott's "The Martian."
AIDAN MONAGHAN; BELOW: GETTY IMAGES

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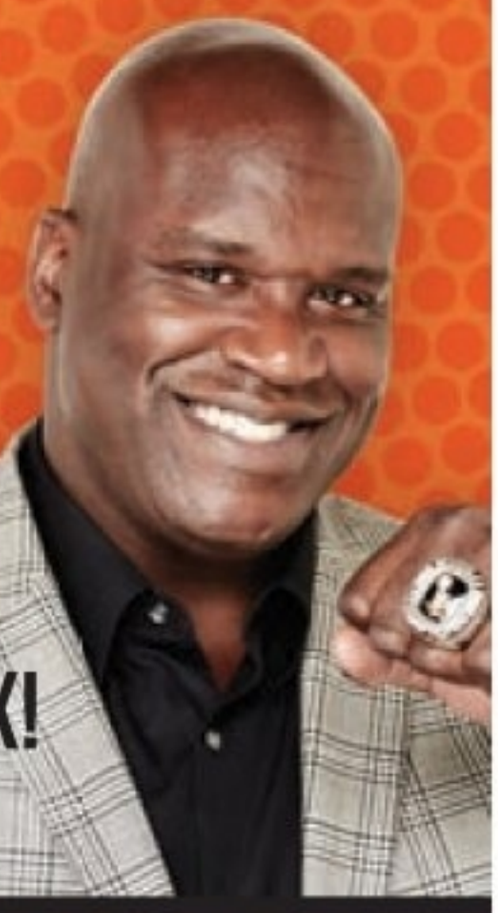

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'The Affair' doubles down on the twists

Joshua Jackson says Season 2 will add to the perspectives of just what is happening in the story.

LISA WEIDENFELD
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"The Affair" returns Sunday at 10 p.m. on Showtime. MARK SCHAFER

"The Affair" was one of the more unusual TV shows to premiere in the last year, seeing as it was told from the shifting perspectives of two participants in an affair, Noah (Dominic West) and Alison (Ruth Wilson).

The series played with audience expectations about who was telling the truth, while also showing differing versions of how Noah's wife, Helen (Maura Tierney), and Ruth's husband, Cole (Joshua Jackson), reacted to what was happening.

The show returns this Sunday with a new twist: We'll now be getting Cole and Helen's perspectives as well. We talked to Jackson about how Cole is dealing with betrayal.

Where do we find Cole this season?

We find him in a not very good place. The aftermath of everything that went down last year has left him kind of bereft.

Will he start to come out of it as the season goes on?

The journey for all the characters in the second season is dealing with the "Holy s—, what do we do now?" Each one of them has their own version of that. His version is essentially to start from a totally clean slate in life with no attachments and no hope and no future and no past and just figure out who the hell he wants to be.

Well, it's not the worst thing to get a chance to start over.

It's not a path that anybody would choose for themselves. I guess in a life that's going to happen every once in a while, though it happened pretty spectacularly for him. [Laughs]

Cole's perspective

"One of the things that was challenging as an actor in the first year for myself and Maura, for everybody who was outside of their own perspective, was being essentially a memory. That was fun and interesting and you get to paint in broad strokes, but it's nice to be able to go inside of Cole's perspective now, because we all see ourselves as more competent in ways that we're not, and more frail in ways that maybe we're not. And so you get to have a sense of his own sense of his weakness and insecurity and all of those things that make us human, which you didn't really get a sense of last year. He was always very strong and very direct and very composed. It's nice to be able to break all that stuff down and speak to how he feels on the inside."

GETTY IMAGES

‘The Martian’ is a rare feel-good Ridley Scott movie

‘The Martian’

Director: Ridley Scott
Stars: Matt Damon, Jessica Chastain
Rating: PG-13

●●●●●

Matt Damon uses science to stay alive in Ridley Scott’s oddly upbeat (but still grim) “The Martian.” GILES KEYTE

MATT PRIGGE
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Did Ridley Scott just make a feel-good rabble-rouser with an ABBA montage? It’s often easy to forget that the director’s name is even on “The Martian.” Scott tends toward the doom and gloom, even when making blockbuster entertainment. His latest — set, like the pitiless “Alien,” in space and, like the downer “Blade Runner,” in the (near) future — meanwhile, is downright upbeat, even utopian, encouraging us to cheer and whoop, and usually to laugh. In a way, it’s the most surreal movie of the year.

Then again, look deeper, and it’s not that cheery. Matt Damon plays Mark Watney, an astronaut stranded on Mars after a freak storm seems to have left him dead. Like Tom Hanks in “Cast Away,” he’s a man alone, with no way — in the first half, at least — of communicating with the team back home. The difference is Mark has real pluck, delighting in finding practical ways to, say, grow potatoes in the Martian sand. And he has tech: He fends off isolation by recording video logs, and the silence can always be filled by one crew member’s old playlist, even if it’s all disco.

Damon’s good vibes go a long way to masking what a harsh and dispassionate film this is. It’s unabashedly pro-science in a way that’s hugely happy-making; at one point, Mark even excitedly crows, through a beamed smile, “I’m going to science the s— out of this!” But it also understands that science is hard and takes time, that experiments routinely fail miserably and often succeed through excessive trial and error. Throughout all this hardship and frayed nerves, Scott keeps “The Martian” light and zippy and fun, rarely turning down a disco-laced set piece and always spinning disasters, no matter how intense, into dark comedy. It’s another tough, merciless, godless Ridley Scott movie about the indifference of the universe. It’s just fun this time.

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GETTY IMAGES

Grade-school gambler

"Mississippi Grind" star Analeigh Tipton got in trouble for playing poker — in the third grade.

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Analeigh Tipton teams up with Ryan Reynolds in the '70s-style drama "Mississippi Grind," about a pair of inveterate gamblers working their way to a poker game in New Orleans. Tipton herself has some surprising experience with cards, though she doesn't quite have the constitution for casinos.

Have you done any gambling yourself?

I enjoy blackjack. I'm not very good at it. I did play in Louisiana [when we were filming]. I won a bunch of money and then lost it. And I started a poker ring in third grade and almost got suspended for it. It got shut down. We would steal Barbie heads and plastic jewelry [for betting], and then it became, like, our parents' jewelry. That was the main issue. Try to tell 9-year-olds that what they're doing is illegal. Awesome.

Were you any good at it, before the game got shut down?

I thought I was pretty good. We'd play five-card stud. I never learned Texas Hold 'Em. I would like to. People have tried to teach me, but for some reason it's always in a situation where everyone else knows, and you don't want to be the person who doesn't know. I like playing poker with friends. I don't know that I would ever be brave enough for a casino. I mean, casinos are intimidating.

They're not terribly happy places, either.

Depends how many cocktails you have and what hour it is. [Laughs] I feel selfish when I win anything just by pulling a thing. I just feel like I stole. All I did was pull a lever and they were kind enough to give me all of this money. I feel like I should thank them by giving it back.

I'm sure the casinos appreciate that.

I mean, I've never been acknowledged for it, but I really should say something. I'm a good person for doing this! [Laughs]

How was working with co-directors Ryan Fleck and Anna Boden?

On "Crazy Stupid Love" I worked with dual directors, so that's actually how I almost got my footing in things. And I think I've worked with a total of four dual director teams, which I guess is not that common. I really enjoy it because I like information. I like someone to be very articulate with what they're looking for because with emotion there's so many different ways to interpret things. Anna and Ryan were very good at giving a similar theme in a direction but having two very different perspectives and allowing you to shape it as you will.

You should put in your contracts that you prefer to work with two directors going forward.

I do! I'm someone that when I write I have to get out the dictionary and then find the exact definition of a word, and then I have to go and look up the etymology, the history of words, which I have a giant book on that's very fun to read. I went on a trip about "gift" earlier today. That's a really dark one. I've gone down dark rabbit holes. I like to be precise because I think there's too many interpretations of one word, and it depends on the experience of that word that the individual has had. And I think probably far too much about it.

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Three shows to see this weekend

Even if you couldn't get tickets to the sold-out opening of the Fillmore Thursday night, there are still plenty of musicians in town. Here are three intimate shows to check out.

MICHELE ZIPKIN

Noah Gundersen PHILIP HARDER

David Berkeley KERRY SHERCK

Noah Gundersen

Friday, 8 p.m.
World Cafe Live
3025 Walnut St.
$18, 215-222-1400
www.worldcafelive.com

This young songwriter is wise beyond his years. Heavily influenced by existential philosophy, his latest album, "Carry the Ghost," addresses the meaning behind how we relate to each other and attempts to answer some serious questions about human nature.

Laetitia Sadier

Saturday, 8 p.m.
Johnny Brenda's
1201 N. Frankford Ave.
$12, 215-739-9684
www.johnnybrendas.com

After gaining acclaim as the singer, keyboard player and guitarist for the early '90s alternative rock band Stereolab, Laetitia Sadier has been making her own music since 2010. She just released a new record, "Something Shines," which explores the philosophy of Guy Debord and other insights into life through lyrics and texturally diverse production.

David Berkeley CD release with Adrien Reju

Sunday, 8 p.m.
Tin Angel
20 S. Second St.
$15, 215-928-0770
www.tinangel.com

David Berkeley writes songs of the Americana acoustic variety, citing Paul Simon, Nick Drake and Neil Young as some of his influences. He's celebrating the release of his latest album, "Cardboard Boat." Multi-instrumentalist Adrien Reju's recent record, "Strange Love and the Secret Language," is a collection of songs that deviate from her typical folksy style.

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Making spooky sound effects for David Lynch

Divine Hand Ensemble PROVIDED

Divine Hand is playing sci-fi and horror music for Eraserhood Forever.

SHAUN BRADY
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There aren't many bands that could go from playing 16th-century funerary music at Laurel Hill Cemetery to opening for Pope Francis on the Ben Franklin Parkway to backing up the Lady in the Radiator from David Lynch's "Eraserhead" — all within the span of one week. But the Divine Hand Ensemble is no normal band, chiefly thanks to the bizarre instrument that is its main focus.

Founder Mano Divina is a virtuoso of the theremin, an early electronic instrument played without being touched. Invented by Russian emigre Leon Theremin in 1920 as a classical instrument, it became famous in the 1950s for providing the eerie sound effects for sci-fi and horror films, including "The Day the Earth Stood Still" and Alfred Hitchcock's "Spellbound." It also provides the ethereal tones on the Beach Boys' hit "Good Vibrations."

"Half the material we do celebrates the unique history of the theremin's place in horror and science fiction movies," Divina says, "and the other half is to show people its original intention as a serious classical instrument. I love the sci-fi history, even when it was just used to make a spaceship take off in a 'Scooby-Doo' episode. After a couple decades, most people weren't skilled enough to play Beethoven and Mozart on it, so if it wasn't for those sound effects I don't think the theremin would have made it over the hump into the 21st century."

On Saturday, the stranger aspects of the theremin will come to the fore as Divine Hand, in which Divina is joined by an eight-piece string ensemble, will perform a program of

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Laurel Near, the Lady in the Radiator from "Eraserhead," will be at Eraserhood Forever. PROVIDED

Playing for the pope

Divine Hand's performance follows a high-profile gig playing the Parkway prior to last Sunday's Papal Mass. Divina calls the contrast "a true testament to what makes this group so special. We can perform religious and sacred music for the Pope and then do weird, unusual, quirky music for David Lynch, again without changing our repertoire or our look or our name."

sci-fi and horror themes as part of PhilaMOCA's annual Eraserhood Forever event. The evening's highlight will come when Laurel Near, the actress who played the chipmunk-cheeked Lady in the Radiator, will join the ensemble to perform "In Heaven" from the film's soundtrack — a tune she originally lip-synced to vocals sung by composer Peter Ivers.

This year's Eraserhood Forever, which honors the neighborhood's role in inspiring Lynch's nightmarish debut feature, will also feature gothic Americana band Northern Arms, Brooklyn-based occult performance art group "a place both wonderful and strange" and Lynch-themed burlesque and DJ sets.

If you go

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'The Walk' is both redundant and transcendent

'The Walk'

Director: Robert Zemeckis
Stars: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Charlotte Le Bon
Rating: PG

★★★★★

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Joseph Gordon-Levitt plays Philippe Petit, the man who in 1974 walked a tightrope between the Twin Towers, in Robert Zemeckis' "The Walk." SONY

There's a solid reason for "The Walk" to exist and, of course, it's the walk itself. The story in Robert Zemeckis' latest was already told in "Man on Wire," which also chronicled French acrobat Philippe Petit's storied and stranger-than-fiction tightrope stroll between the Twin Towers in 1974. But footage of Petit's saunter is virtually nonexistent, and "Man on Wire" was forced to resort to insistent music and hyperbolic talking heads to conjure up a spell. "The Walk," meanwhile, has 3-D, IMAX and one of cinema's most tech-friendly maximalists at the helm.

The big centerpiece (at the end, as it were) is not a letdown. Zemeckis creates both a sense of vertigo and a sense of peace, of transcendence. It would be easy to say this capper is all "The Walk" has going for it, but for the record it's all of a piece, and Zemeckis makes the story his own, which is to say he turns it into one of his proudly cornball triumphs of the eccentric spirit.

Zemeckis is one of digital cinema's best friends, and he knows that all movies are an optical illusion. He's using tech and the language of populist film to bring the World Trade Center back to life, turning the towers into real objects that are nonetheless trapped in the screen. When Petit first encounters them in person, he touches the side with his nose, as though using his head to create a mind-meld; all we, as voyeurs, can do is look. But Zemeckis is also re-creating the walk itself — another ephemeral thing that once lived only in pictures and rapturous accounts, that couldn't even fully and powerfully come back in a doc as loved and award-gobbling as was "Man on Wire." "The Walk" is at once thin and mighty — redundant in some ways, yet quietly, even tragically, bittersweet.

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‘Sicario’ portrays the drug war as a club for frat boys

‘Sicario’

Director: Denis Villeneuve
Stars: Emily Blunt, Josh Brolin
Rating: R

●●●●●

MATT PRIGGE
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Emily Blunt literally descends into darkness in the drug war saga “Sicario.” RICHARD FOREMAN JR.

“Sicario” offers a simple, blunt, brutal, dispiriting message: The drug war is so far gone that there’s little difference between the cops and robbers. That makes it sound too pat and simplistic. There isn’t that obligatory moment of realization that the good guys and bad guys are the same. The “heroes” are in too deep to care. They even like it that way.

Our token guide through this purgatory is Kate (Emily Blunt), a federal agent who usually deals with kidnapping but has been farmed out to the DEA. There she’s horrified to find a boys’ club of frat-tish thugs who crack jokes before gunning down perps in the middle of a Juarez traffic jam, safe in the knowledge that their illegal, reckless acts will never make the papers.

One of their key agents is Matt (Josh Brolin), a swinging-dick wiseacre who arrives in flip-flops and sports a hungry smirk that only disappears when he’s issuing threats to anyone who might rat them out. Benicio Del Toro’s mysterious Alejandro seems like the literal good cop — the soulful one who doesn’t say much. But his reticence only masks his supersized evil.

What unfolds can be tangled and confusing, short on specifics, big on general ickiness. But that’s how it should be. The narrative, like the morality, is murky and muddled, though knowing why one character is embarking on one mission won’t make anything clearer. It’s about the gist — the gist that no one knows what’s going on and will in fact profit off the confusion.

The filmmaking itself, though, is cool and ominous, laced with the blackest comedy. Filmmaker Denis Villeneuve (“Prisoners,” “Enemy”) can be an overly portentous director, but “Sicario” finds him both reining himself in and applying precision to how he doles out his moods of unease. A traffic jam shoot-out gets intense without ever becoming naggingly kickass. It’s not a film about the drug war, in the sense that it has any solutions to fix it. It is a film about the drug war as a metaphor for life at its worst, an unsalvageable wasteland peopled by those — mostly men, natch — who only know how to play dirty.

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'Time Out of Mind'

Richard Gere hides in the background as a homeless man in "Time Out of Mind," out today. IFC FILMS

'Time Out of Mind'

Director: Oren Moverman
Stars: Richard Gere, Ben Vereen
Rating: R
• • • • •

MATT PRIGGE
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"Time Out of Mind" is a movie about the homeless, but that imparts too much import upon it, and almost certainly implies sentimentality. Movie hobos tend to be holy fools, but Richard Gere's George is closer to Mickey Rourke's Randy "The Ram" in "The Wrestler": an old-timer has-been with a lifetime of dire mistakes to which the film only ever half-alludes. He even has an estranged, though even angrier, daughter (Jena Malone), who seems to have entirely erased him from her life by the time he makes hesitant but creepy overtures to re-enter it. That plot thread never dominates what remains an episodic character study that moves, if at all, in circles. Usually all George is trying to do is procure an always skeezy excuse for a bed, along the way picking up brief encounters with lowly nurses and security guards and the like, who leave his life as quickly as they entered it.

For the most part, George is one of the untold invisibles in the city, and filmmaker Oren Moverman ("The Messenger," "Rampart") almost treats him that way. Sometimes you have to find him inside busy frames, which are usually shot from a remove or behind glass storefronts or fences. Gere, perhaps unexpectedly, fits right in. It's not a movie star ostentatiously dirtying himself up, nor is it a movie star calling attention to how he's not entirely dirtying himself up. His performance is largely reactive, silent. Only when he runs afoul of a fellow hobo, played with hungry verve by Ben Vereen — a stage god rarely given a chance to work his magic in movies — does the movie fill with endless and boundless chatter. Mostly it stays minimalist, rough and uncompromising, so much so that it earns its nice ending.

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Aries Get serious and put your personal affairs in order. Delays can be costly when it comes to legal or financial contracts. Talk to a trusted adviser.

Taurus If you aren't making any progress, ask yourself if your plans are realistic and solid. If not, plan a workable strategy and keep moving forward.

Gemini Boredom will leave you having trouble focusing. Take on a new project or sport to keep your mind sharp. Check out your community center for events.

Cancer An employer or colleague will be the source of a troubling situation. Don't trust anyone else's version of the facts. Look for the truth.

Leo Don't give anything away. You will end up regretting it if you act too quickly. Do something that you enjoy to prevent making a mistake.

Virgo Realize that not everyone will agree with you. Being pushy is not an option. You will get further ahead if you look out for your interests.

Libra Follow your intuition. If there is someone from your past who you think could help you out, contact him or her. A new partnership looks promising.

Scorpio Minor health matters must be addressed before they escalate. Don't let others dictate what you should be doing. Act on your own instincts.

Sagittarius You may want to consider a move or an alteration to your living space to increase your comfort. Delays with travel can be expected.

Capricorn Invest in yourself and your attributes. Brainstorming with friends, neighbors or colleagues will pave the way to a new source of income.

Aquarius Let others in on some of your innovative ideas. A new approach to an old problem will bring amazing results.

Pisces You may be looking for a miracle, but don't fall for a smooth sales pitch. Get credentials before you open your wallet. **EUGENIA LAST**

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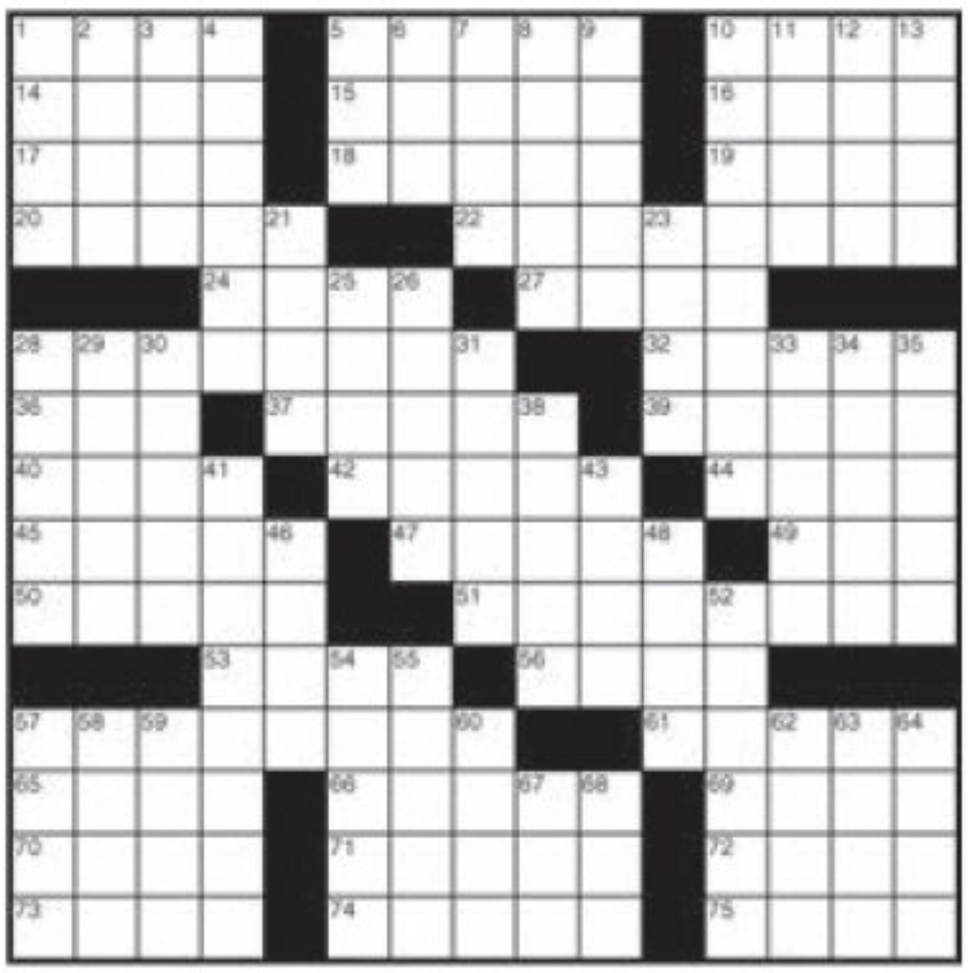

Across

1 Telemarketing danger
5 Ransacks
10 Gush forth
14 Like a house cat
15 Vintage tune
16 Congolese river
17 Like the Kalahari
18 Deal with (2 wds.)
19 Long-handled tool
20 Bluegill
22 Prepared to deal
24 Rents
27 Ms. Fitzgerald
28 Doubt
32 Harsh chemicals
36 And, to Fritz
37 Iroquois speakers
39 Go biking
40 Cow-headed goddess
42 George or T.S.
44 Truck stop sight
45 Boxing jabs
47 Fishtails
49 Elec. unit
50 Shop for clothes (2 wds.)
51 Patches a wall
53 Motel vacancy
56 Kind of gin
57 Muttered crossly
61 Hint
65 Actress — Petty
66 Not taut
69 Demeanor
70 Nave neighbor
71 Hair-raising
72 Unthinkingly
73 Diary opener
74 Flat broke
75 Cheerio! (hyph.)

Down

1 Wild guess
2 "It Must Be Him" singer
3 Marie's friend
4 Winner awards
5 — Alamos
6 Pamplona shout
7 Byron's works
8 Give a tenth
9 City near Incheon
10 A cube has six
11 Clap of thunder
12 Ms. Sommer
13 Hoe
21 Ration out
23 Beat, as wings
25 Makeshift swing
26 Agronomists' studies
28 Comforter
29 Bobby of Indy
30 Illuminate
31 Simon and Diamond
33 Just perfect
34 Jean-Claude Van —
35 Minor mistakes
38 Bisque and miso
41 More turbulent
43 Duck or hue
46 Social climber
48 Lad or lassie
52 Famed frog
54 Mary-Kate or Ashley
55 Brawl
57 Very willing
58 Hemp product
59 — Major
60 Venture
62 Opera set in Egypt
63 Stonehenge builder
64 "Only Time" singer
67 England's FBI
68 Pivotal

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easy

4	7		2		1			
	5			3	7			
			4			3		
	9			1		6	7	
3			9	2	4			1
	1	2		7			3	
		5			3			
			8	4			1	
			1		9		4	3

hard

6				1			3	
					8	7	2	
	1				5	8		
9	2	1						8
	8		4		9		1	
4						9	7	2
		3	5				9	
	9	7	3					
	6			9				4

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DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?
THAT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING. RAP AIN'T REAL. IT'S ALL AN ILLUSION. I'M LITTLE KIDS' HERO NOW--BELIEVING IN LIES. STREET FICTION TAKEN AS GOSPEL.
THIS IS ALL A GAME, AND I'M THE CHAMP.
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Union waste another chance in Open Cup loss

MLS. Union manager Jim Curtin insists the loss is his fault and not that of the players.

The Union were left deflated and defeated on their home turf at PPL Park Wednesday in a 1-1 (7-6) loss on penalty kicks to Sporting Kansas City in the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup final.

It was the second straight year the Union were defeated on their home field in the finals, and they could only watch as Kansas City players celebrated their third Open Cup title with their fans in the river corner of the stadium.

"We had the opportunity in a final in front of our home crowd and we came up a little short," Union manager Jim Curtin said. "I won't hide from that if anyone wants to pass blame or anything like that, I'm right here. That goes to me because my players had a great night."

Curtin's late-game decisions ended up playing a major factor in the game's outcome. In the 116th minute, Andrew Wenger replaced potent scorer C.J. Sapong, and in the 121st minute, John McCarthy replaced starting goalie Andre Blake.

Wenger went on to miss the game-deciding penalty kick, while McCarthy was able to muster just one save on eight shots.

"The thinking isn't [Wenger's] going to be our eighth shooter," Curtin said. "We made the move thinking that if Andrew could get on the ball with his speed maybe he can go by their back line [in the second extra time]. … When it goes to penalty kicks, the unfortunate part of it is someone's going to wind up being the one that misses."

Blake registered five saves before coming out of the game at the last minute for McCarthy. The thinking was that McCarthy had handled two other penalty kick situations during the Open Cup run to get the Union to that point. Unfortunately, he didn't do enough between the pipes this time and was embarrassed on the game-winning tap-in by Jordi Quintilla.

Close but not quite — a feeling the Union knows too well. / GETTY IMAGES

"John was a key part of this magical ride," Union midfielder Michael Lahoud said. "It was very unfortunate that he wasn't able to do some of the things that got us this far. … On a different day, I think he would've gotten some of those but I'm really proud of the effort he made."

But for now, it was yet another Union opportunity wasted. In a severely disappointing season marred by injuries, suspensions and lineup shuffling, this was their opportunity to find solace. Instead, the wounds grew even deeper.

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3 SPORTS

Phillies rolling

Phils can avoid 100 losses

It's utterly meaningless, but if you're a true Phillies fan, you don't want your beloved team in triple digits. So with 97 losses, Philly needs to win at least one of this weekend's games against the Marlins to avoid 100 defeats. The team won its fourth straight, 3-0, over the Mets Thursday.

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The Eagles are no strangers to playing in inclement weather. / GETTY IMAGES

Joaquin: Are Eagles worried?

NFL. No decision has yet been made, but if the hurricane hits land Sunday it could make for an interesting Week 4 in the NFL.

Remember two years ago when the Eagles pulverized the Lions in a blizzard with eight inches of snow on the field?

Snow is certainly more conducive to football than hurricanes are.

And as Hurricane Joaquin continues to slowly make its ascent up the East Coast, with differing predictions of where it will hit land and whether it will be a true superstorm or not, the Eagles could be sitting ducks as they prepare to face the Redskins in Washington at 1 p.m. Sunday.

The Birds are getting ready for a weather-heavy game, and have not been notified of any decisions to move, postpone or alter the game in D.C. this weekend.

"There's been nothing told to us," Chip Kelly said Thursday. "We're preparing to play on Sunday. But there's been nothing definitive in terms of what's going to go on. So, when they tell us what we're doing, if the plan were to change, we'll adjust accordingly. We're big on if we can't control it — and obviously no one can control the weather — then we'll adjust accordingly."

If the game can not take place as scheduled, there are a few options.

The game could move to a neutral site, such as Detroit (although that would be a killer decision for Redskins season ticket-holders).

It could also be moved to the Eagles' bye week, which happens to be the same as the Redskins in Week 8. But the NFLPA would likely not be pleased with that option.

They could also swap home games with Washington — the Skins are slated to play in Philly in Week 16 — but there is no guarantee the weather will be better in Philadelphia. (New Jersey has already declared a state of emergency in anticipation of the storm.)

The most likely option, and hopefully the safest one, is for the game to happen as planned.

In which case, it could be sloppy.

"You're always trying to get updates and see where you are," Kelly said. "Are you preparing for wind, are you preparing for rain? Then on game day you're going to have to figure it out as far as which way is the wind blowing. Is it behind you, is it a cross-wind, is it behind you for two of the quarters and in your face for the other two? So you have to make adjustments in the stadium."

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Bad weather memories

The NFL has had its share of weird weather affecting games in recent seasons:

- **Jets-Bills, 2014** — A severe snowstorm forced an AFC East battle to be waged in neutral Detroit last year.
- **Vikings-Eagles 2010** — Snow caused the Birds to play a Tuesday NFL game, the first in 64 seasons.
- **Minnesota Metrodome collapse** — The Vikings played "home" games in Detroit and the University of Minnesota after the collapse of the stadium's roof.
- **Hurricane Katrina** — The Saints split home games between the Alamodome in San Antonio and LSU's Tiger Stadium after the devastating hurricane.

The making of a millionaire

Another week, another millionaire crowned, but the story of this lineup's a bit different than the previous two. First, the 252.1 point total was by far the highest so far this season for this Sunday Million. Second, this is a lineup in which owner Cookies248 had a clear strategy of utilizing two high-volume, low-cost running backs. The real difference maker, though, was that in lieu of spending up at wide receiver, he paid for the top defense and kicker. This is unusual in most winning lineups:

QB: Newton

Like Russell Wilson, Cam Newton is a great quarterback for the daily format because of his rushing potential. With two passing TDs and one rushing TD, Newton had a banner day.
CAM NEWTON, ($7,800), 8.6% OWNED, 29.9 FANDUEL POINTS

RB: Randle, Freeman

Devonta Freeman had over 200 all-purpose yards and three TDs. When a roster is able to pull down six scores from two fantasy backs, it's going to be tough to beat.
JOSEPH RANDLE, ($6,500), 5.2% OWNED, 29.5 FDPS; DEVONTA FREEMAN, ($6,500), 6.7 % OWNED, 39.8 FDPS

WR: Hopkins, Allen, Smith

It can be risky to roll with players who are not 100 percent — just ask Marshawn Lynch owners this week. Just be sure when you do so, it's on players of Hopkins upside.
DEANDRE HOPKINS, ($7,800), 5.4% OWNED, 20.1 FDPS; KEENAN ALLEN, ($7,600), 1.9% OWNED, 31.3 FDPS; STEVE SMITH SR, ($7,100), 2.5 % OWNED, 37.1 FDPS

TE: Olsen

With Rob Gronkowski and Jimmy Graham getting most of the buzz, Olsen was a more cost-efficient option.
GREG OLSEN, ($5,900), 2.5% OWNED, 37.1 FDPS

STEPHEN GOSTKOWSKI, (K), ($5,000), 10.8% OWNED, 17 FDPS; SEAHAWKS (D), ($5,300), 22.6% OWNED, 18 FDPS

FanDuel

NFL. Jets, Bengals and Broncos are best bets in Week 4 action

Will the Jets get back on track after last week's loss to Philly? / GETTY IMAGES

New York Jets (-1.5) vs. Miami Dolphins [9:30 a.m., game in London]
The Dolphins, a team that some expected would rise to the top of the AFC East after a productive offseason that saw them nab Ndamukong Suh, are rapidly deteriorating. Suh is apparently disgruntled, and has only three tackles in three games this season. The Jets, on the other hand, have played surprisingly well in the first year of the Todd Bowles era. After earning a big win over the Browns and earning a quality win over the Colts, they played admirably in defeat to a desperate Eagles squad last week. Expect the Jets defense (ranked fourth in yards allowed and first in points allowed in 2015) to stifle the Dolphins overseas.
The pick: Jets -1.5

Kansas City Chiefs at Cincinnati Bengals (-4)
The Chiefs were not a good road team last year; they went 3-5 and averaged only 19 points in those contests. Their one win this year came on the road but it was a close shave against the Texans, who look like a mess this season. Meanwhile, the Bengals have been a great home team the last few seasons (21-9 in their last 30 home contests) and they got off to another winning start in Paul Brown Stadium by beating the Chargers in Week 2. Cincinnati's offense has been unstoppable so far this season, gaining over 414 YPG, just behind New England for the NFL lead. The Chiefs are capable of generating some pressure on Andy Dalton, but I doubt this 24th-ranked squad is capable of holding the Bengals under 20 points.
The pick: Bengals -4

Minnesota Vikings at Denver Broncos (-6.5)
After being pronounced dead by more than a few "experts," Peyton Manning looked alive and well last Sunday night when he carved up the Lions at Ford Field. Now the 3-0 Broncos return home, where they've won all but two games they've played since Manning joined them in 2012. The Vikings may be 2-1 but they looked listless in their only road tilt, a 20-3 loss to the 49ers, who have subsequently been shellacked by the Steelers and Cardinals.. The Broncos have the sixth-best rush defense in the NFL, so once the villainous Adrian Peterson is shut down, Teddy Bridgewater will be forced to match scores with a living legend. That likely won't end well, as Denver's defense has already forced six INTs this season.
The pick: Broncos -6.5

ROBERT CRISCOLA

Some more picks

Here's a look at the rest of Week 4's slate of games and how we think they'll go **(picks in bold).** The lines are based on a consensus of major sportsbooks:

- Houston Texans at **Atlanta Falcons** (-6.5)
- **New York Giants** at Buffalo Bills (-5)
- Oakland Raiders (-3) at **Chicago Bears**
- Jacksonville Jaguars at **Indianapolis Colts** (-9)
- **Carolina Panthers** (-3) at Tampa Bay Buccaneers
- **Philadelphia Eagles (-3)** at Washington Redskins
- Cleveland Browns at **San Diego Chargers** (-7.5)

- St. Louis Rams at **Arizona Cardinals** (-7)
- **Green Bay Packers** (-9) at San Francisco 49ers
- Detroit Lions at **Seattle Seahawks** (-9.5)
- Dallas Cowboys at New Orleans Saints [OFF]

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3 Things the Eagles must do to beat the Redskins in Week 4

NFL. The running game will be a key factor in Sunday's NFC East showdown.

The Eagles look to even their record at 2-2 against division foes the Redskins Sunday (1 p.m., FOX). And assuming the game goes off without a hitch — and Hurricane Joaquin doesn't cause a change of venue or postponement — Philadelphia will face a bigger test than many might think.

Washington's offense has been spectacular early, contrary to their 1-2 early season record.

But after getting, as quarterback Sam Bradford said, "the monkey off our backs" with win No. 1 in New York last week, the Eagles are excited to get back in the field and see if they can build off some big positives.

"The hard part is this, practice," Eagles linebacker Brandon Graham said. "In the game, it's fun. You can be relaxed and let loose."

Here are three keys for the Eagles in Week 4:

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1 Stop the run

Washington has averaged 147.3 rushing yards per game through three games, fourth best in football. / ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Well, stop the run might be too ambitions. The Redskins have two of the top 12 running backs in the NFL in Alfred Morris (199 yards, 4.1 yards per carry) and Matt Jones (189 yards, 5.3 yards per carry).

Washington leads the entire NFL in yardage differential (+94.3), time of possession (34:43), plays per scoring drive (11) and time per scoring drive (5:34). What does that mean? Well, the Redskins can control the ball.

Pair that with the Eagles' hurry-up offense and the Birds' defense will certainly be spending a lot of time on the field.

"We probably have our biggest challenge this week — going up against the fourth-best rushing team in the league," Connor Barwin, another Eagles linebacker said. "They have two of the best backs in the league. They split the reps, they are always fresh and always running really hard."

2 Stop going three-and-out

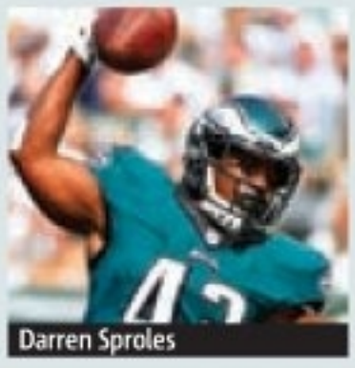
The Eagles are usually concerned with their drives being stymied by turnovers. This season, it's not turnovers but three-and-outs that are devastating the no-huddle offense.

"Usually with this group, you get one first down and that leads to more first downs," Chip Kelly said. "It's really those opening first three plays, and within there, there can't be any inconsistency on those three plays."

Philly leads the league in three-and-outs, and it isn't even close. They have gone three-and-out on 14 of 40 drives this season, a 35 percent clip, six points higher than the league's second-worst offender, the Browns. In contrast, the 49ers, Saints and Patriots have just two three-and-outs apiece all season long. The small sample size doesn't condemn three-and-outs as a decisive stat in the NFL yet, but it is certainly not a good place to start.

3 Run the ball

The Eagles finally eclipsed the 100-yard mark on the ground last week, interestingly without highly paid back DeMarco Murray. Murray has been practicing this week but his status for Sunday is yet unknown.



Darren Sproles

It seems that Darren Sproles and Ryan Mathews are more than capable of picking up the slack if the Eagles can handle the Redskins talented front seven.

"They're a good defense," Bradford said. "I think they're second now in total defense, their front is active, they get their hands on a lot of balls. Their scheme is simple but they do a good job."

Establishing the run could be even more important if the D.C. area is flushed with bad weather, as is expected due to Joaquin this weekend.

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